

## Partnership

A Newsletter of the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety  
Committed to saving lives and preventing injuries on Maine highways.

[www.maine.gov/dps/bhs](http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs)

207-626-3840

January 2010



### Messages from MeBHS Director



Join Maine in a New Year's Resolution to decrease fatal crashes. Maine averages more than 3 fatal crashes every week. This

number is simply not acceptable. In an effort to combat the continuing issue of motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries, the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety launched a new campaign to focus on driver safety.

*Survive Your Drive*, kicked off on November 12, in conjunction with the State's Holiday Enforcement and Education Campaign. It is designed to raise driver awareness about the importance of safe driving and how to avoid behaviors that lead to fatal crashes on Maine highways. The education campaign, which will be coupled with increased enforcement, focuses on seat belt usage, speeding, impaired driving, and other unsafe driving behaviors.

Maine has made great strides in reducing highway fatalities, but even one is too many. "We hope that the *Survive Your Drive* message

will remind drivers to be responsible behind the wheel and will help to make our highways safer for everyone."

Camden Police Chief Phil Roberts, current President of the Maine

Chiefs of Police Association, said that the State's enforcement agencies are ever-vigilant in keeping Maine's highways safe, but that education will help motorists to drive more safely.

"Enforcement is a major component of highway safety, but so is education," Chief Roberts said. "Believe me, Officers and

Troopers are much happier when they see people driving safely on our roads."

Visit [www.surviveyourdrive.org](http://www.surviveyourdrive.org)

Did you notice?  
Law enforcement agencies across Maine have participated in enforcement programs geared toward reducing speeding,



impaired driving and to increase the use of seat belts.

Prevention is the key. All year long there was an increased presence of law enforcement details, so the message was clear "if you speed, drive impaired or don't wear your seat belt, the chances are good you will be caught". The goal is to make Maine's roadways a safer place for Maine people.

Lauren V. Stewart, Director



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### Caribou Reflect While You Walk Program

Caribou Maine Police Chief Michael Gahagan and Sgt. Paul Vincent report the town has



many groups in the winter that walk or run without wearing any highly reflective clothing. Coupled with long, dark and harsh winter, few street lights many areas that do not have sidewalks, people often use the roadways.

The department wanted to clearly communicate with public groups the need to be highly visible. With a grant from Highway Safety, the Caribou Police in conjunction with local groups conducted training & awareness programs. They provided 530 high visibility vests to residents. The goal is to keep pedestrians safe and visible.

\*

### Click It or Ticket

More than 91,000 people have survived crashes since 2002 in the United States because of belts, federal data show.



<http://www.iihs.org/sr/default.aspx>

### Precision Driving Skills



Waterville Police Department conducted EVOC Training at Waterville Airport earlier this year.

Waterville Police Department Deputy Chief Charles Rumsey informs us of this program which is conducted twice a year to train law enforcement officers how to handle emergency responses safely and with precision. The purpose is to teach precise driving skills under low speed, low stress conditions, while simulating an emergency response. The training includes both classroom and on course time. This is a regional program uniting departments from all over central Maine.

\*

### Case for Nighttime – and Afternoon – Seat Belt Enforcement in Maine

Recent NHTSA study shows Maine to have a high unrestrained fatality rate from midnight to 6 am on Saturday and Sunday. This is similar to many other states. It also showed a high rate on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons. Not usual to other states. These four time slots make up only one-seventh of the hours of the week. But more than one-quarter of the unbuckled fatalities in Maine occur during those times. Look for more emphasis on nighttime and afternoon seat belt enforcement activities this year.

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### Driving Skills for Life



The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and Ford Motor Company recently made the Driving Skills for Life Academy program available to all state highway safety offices. The program was established in 2003 to teach newly licensed teens skills for safe driving beyond what they learn in driver education classes.

The Highway Safety web site is –

[www.state.me.us/dps/bhs/](http://www.state.me.us/dps/bhs/)



### Crash Reconstruction



MeBHS recently sponsored an Advanced Pedestrian-Bicycle Collision Investigation course in Augusta for the state of Maine Crash Reconstruction Unit. The course, taught by Tony Becker and Mike Reade, provided the unit with the latest theories and methodologies of Pedestrian/Bicyclist Traffic Crash Investigation.

Topics covered in the class included:

- Instruction on the use of the PEDBIKE 2000 Plus software
- Pedestrian-Cyclist impact dynamics
- The effects of vehicle design on pedestrian-cyclist injuries and movement
- The origin of basic equations developed to analyze impact speed in pedestrian-cyclist involved collisions
- Recognize and understand the origin of equations used to analyze pedestrian-cyclist motion as a result of a collision
- The development of a systematic approach to pedestrian-cyclist collision investigation
- Real world case analysis
- Crash testing to assist in the overall pedestrian-cyclist analysis

Sgt. Richard Mcalister, Maine State Police

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## Law Enforcement Challenge 2009

On September 9, 2009, the Bureau of Highway Safety held the third annual Maine Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston with over 40 people attended.

The Law Enforcement Challenge is an opportunity for a law enforcement agency to showcase their community traffic safety programs which save lives.

The Challenge is conducted at the state level where similar-sized agencies compete.

Below are the results from this year's Challenge, and the prizes that were awarded from BHS:

### Smaller Departments

1<sup>st</sup> Place- York PD; received a Jamar Radar Recorder System and a Stalker DSR 2X Radar unit

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Presque Isle PD; received a Stalker DSR 2X Radar unit

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Lisbon PD; received a Kustom Pro III Laser

### Larger Departments

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Rockland PD; received a Jamar Radar Recorder System and a Stalker DSR 2X Radar unit

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office; received a Stalker Lidar unit

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- South Portland PD; received a Kustom Pro III Laser

### Maine State Police

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Troop G; received 3 Kustom Pro III Lasers

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Troop B; received a Stalker DSR 2X Radar unit

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Troop E; received a Kustom Pro III Laser

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) heads the national Challenge, and the applications submitted to were sent to the IACP for scoring. There were over 500 agencies nationwide that submitted applications this year. In the

national competition, York Police Department received first place in their division and the Maine State Police received third place in their division. As part of the award for winning first place, York PD will be going to the IACP national conference in Denver, Colorado, to receive their award.

Last year the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office won third place in their category in the IACP national event.

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## Operation Lifesaver Videos

**"Stay Alive When You Drive"** has begun distribution to provide professional truck drivers with the information they need to drive safely at railroad crossings. The fast-paced video provides critical tips to help commercial drivers avoid collisions. Scenes in the video include several serious crashes that illustrate the high stakes drivers face at crossings. Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers are happy to show the video and talk further about railroad crossings at no charge during or you can request a copy to show drivers on your own.

**"Look to Live"** is the new driver education video, and since the vast majority of student drivers are teens, the DVD fits their lifestyle with music and



featuring young adults through its ten-minute duration. Students are reminded that a train can approach from either direction at anytime, that because of its size an approaching train appears to be moving slower than it actually is, and how to escape safely from a vehicle if it stalls at a crossing. The video also suggests the driver turn down the radio or CD player as the vehicle nears a crossing and asks that passengers quiet down for a few moments until safely across the tracks. Again, a Maine Operation Lifesaver certified presenter will visit a driver education class for a free presentation or the instructor may play the DVD during any part of classroom learning. To request a copy, e-mail [maineol@roadrunner.com](mailto:maineol@roadrunner.com),

phone 207-827-7367, or mail a note to Maine Operation Lifesaver, 23 Park Street, Old Town, Maine 04468.

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### LD 1447 Changes

The State of Maine has made several significant changes that agencies should be aware of for the procedures in the use of the Intoxilyzer 5000EN



On September 12, 2009, LD 1447 was enacted. The new law allows breath test results for alcohol to be reported directly as grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath. The change does away with the requirement to convert breath test results to percentage by weight of alcohol in the blood for final reporting.

Maine has now changed from Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) to Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) which is the system that most other states currently use. It will not change the way the Intoxilyzer 5000EN analyzes the breath sample. In the next few weeks a software upgrade for the instruments will report the test result as **grams of Alcohol per 210L of breath** instead of the percentage of ALCOHOL by weight of blood.

For more information

[www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/impaired-driving/dre/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/impaired-driving/dre/index.html)

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### Survive Your Drive Numbers



12 is the number of pedestrians killed in Maine in 2008

1.08 Maine fatality rate 2009

90% crashes considered to be preventable  
>2,400,000 number of people injured in crashes in the USA

>40,000 number of people killed each year in crashes in the USA

5997 number of SB citations in ME 2008

862 number of serious injuries ME 2008

294,000 number of serious injuries from crashes in the USA

1 is the number that is too many

42 number of alcohol related crash deaths in ME 2008

3 second rule is about minimum safe following distance

115 number of deaths from crashes per day in the USA

83% seatbelt usage rate in ME

155 number of fatalities from crashes ME 2008

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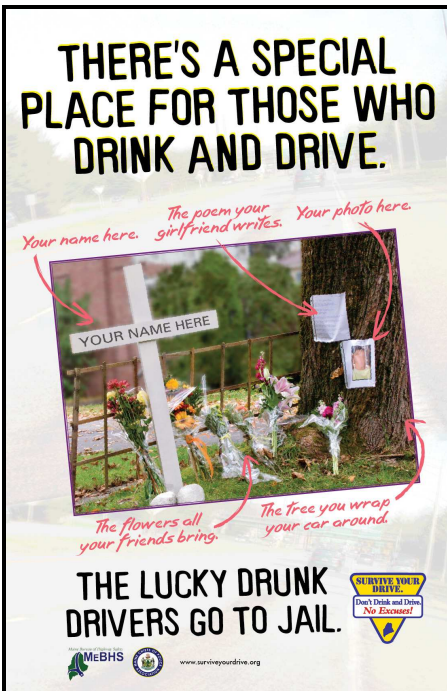
### Introducing “Survive Your Drive” – Maine’s Highway Safety Campaign!

Increased safety on Maine’s highways – that’s  
the number one goal!

The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety has  
developed a powerful campaign to help make  
our highways safer. The effort addresses four  
main priorities – drunk driving, safety belt  
usage, teen safety and speeding. Of course,  
we are always working to enhance child,  
pedestrian and motorcycle safety as well.

You can join in!

All the materials here are available for your use  
– including TV ads, radio ads, posters, logos  
and more. Just [download](#) them from this site.  
You can also [download](#) a marketing manual  
from our web site.



<http://www.surviveyourdrive.org/>

THE TAB:	
Fine	\$500.00
Towing Charges	\$75.00
Bail Bond	\$50.00
Lawyer	\$2,500.00
Alcohol Education Course	\$110.00
3-Year Insurance Surcharge	\$4,000.00
Loss of Work	\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,235.00</b>

**And that's just for the first offense!**  
If you drive before getting your license back it could mean jail, a fine, and an additional license suspension.

**If you drink and drive, it could cost you.**

**SURVIVE YOUR DRIVE.**  
Don't Drink and Drive. No Excuses!

MeBHS [www.surviveyourdrive.org](http://www.surviveyourdrive.org)

### Always Looking for a Good Safety Article, Idea or Project!



Call us at the Maine  
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